



Steven W. Troxler  
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture  
and Consumer Services  
*Veterinary Division*

David T. Marshall, DVM  
State Veterinarian

August 25, 2010

Ms. Melinda Barefoot  
Johnston County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals  
720 Durham Road  
Clayton, North Carolina 27520-2961

**CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT  
REQUESTED  
7006 2760 0003 0472 2198**

Re: **WARNING LETTER**  
Request for Remediation Schedule for Correcting Animal Shelter Deficiencies

Dear Ms. Barefoot:

As you are aware, your shelter facility was recently inspected by a member of the staff of the Animal Welfare Section of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. This section is responsible for enforcing state laws and regulations applicable to boarding kennels, pet shops and public and private animal shelters. You have received a copy of those laws and the rules establishing the minimum standards for conditions and practices in animal shelters in North Carolina.

The recent inspections on August 6 and August 10 indicated to the Section that your facility has failed to comply with the applicable laws and regulations, as described in the enclosed copies of its most recent inspection reports. The inspector found the following deficiencies:

- 1) You have dogs with obvious mange and there were no records of any veterinary assessment or treatment;
- 2) You have dogs that are skinny and may have worms and there were no records of any veterinary assessment or treatment; and
- 3) The Clayton animal control officer is neglecting to complete impoundment forms when an animal is left at the shelter. The shelter facility is responsible for having complete and accurate intake and disposition records.

Overall your shelter's record system lacks organization.

Failure to maintain complete and accurate records on shelter animals can constitute violation of the following:

Operators of all animal shelters, pet shops, public auctions, and dealers shall maintain records on all dogs and cats showing the following:

- (1) Origin of animals (including names and addresses of consignors) and date animals were received;
- (2) Description of animals including species, age, sex, breed, and color markings;
- (3) Location of animal if not kept at the licensed or registered facility;
- (4) Disposition of animals including name and address of person to whom animal is sold, traded or adopted and the date of such transaction; in the event of death, the record shall show the date, signs of illness, or cause of death if identified; if euthanized, the record shall show date and type of euthanasia; and
- (5) Record of veterinary care including treatments, immunization and date, time, description of medication (including name and dosage), and initials of person administering any product or procedure.

*History Note:*      *Authority G.S. 19A-24;*

Each of these deficiencies can constitute grounds for action against the shelter's registration certification, up to and including revocation of that certification. This letter constitutes a **WARNING** that future deficiencies of like these will result in disciplinary action by the Department.

Would you please provide the Animal Welfare Section with the remedial steps to be taken to solve these problems and the date when you expect that the shelter will have done so? We would appreciate a reply to this letter by no later than ten days from the date of receipt. Please feel free to respond directly to the Animal Welfare Section by fax or by letter. The address and fax number appears on the enclosed report.

If you have any questions about the applicable law or the shelter's status, please feel free to speak with me.

Sincerely,



Lee Hunter, DVM, MPH  
Director, Animal Welfare Section

Copy to:      Barry H. Bloch, Assistant Attorney General, NCDOJ  
                 Joe Blomquist, Outreach Coordinator, NCDA&CS  
                 David T. Marshall, State Veterinarian, NCDA&CS  
                 Howard Isley, Assistant Commissioner, NCDA&CS